

THE MYSTERY BOX

Part 2 --- "The Cover"

By Bob Szymanski (LM145)

Upon opening my newly won and recently received perfin treasure trove, the first item I saw was the most beautiful of all covers. Was this a plant at the top of the box for the unsuspecting would-be bidder? I would rather think not as I may not have been the recipient of the lot described in part 1 of "The Mystery Box", should anyone have thought the whole lot was of this caliber material!

Any 1909 dated perfin cover is nice but this one had a different feel about it. I innately sensed it. The Hudson Fulton commemorative, beautifully centered, with a fully punched perfin in it would go well in one of my specialty collections - the Hudson Fulton Commemorative one naturally. But wait a minute. I did not recognize the perfin or the user, GEO. W. FELS, DENTAL DEPOT in Cincinnati, OH. The cover was postmarked October 1, 1909 not only well within the proper period for this commemorative but only six days after it was issued!!! The perfin in the stamp was GWF and that matched the corner identification quite satisfactorily.



Upon opening the U S Catalog, I found the pattern was G196.5 [A] - a perfect match - but never before identified by either user or even city. WOW! How lucky can a collector be? I wish I knew how this cover came to be in this lot as you might also when you read part three of this series.

On through the box I went, sorting my strips and covers. Here are some of the other covers that I think will be of interest to U S perfin collectors.

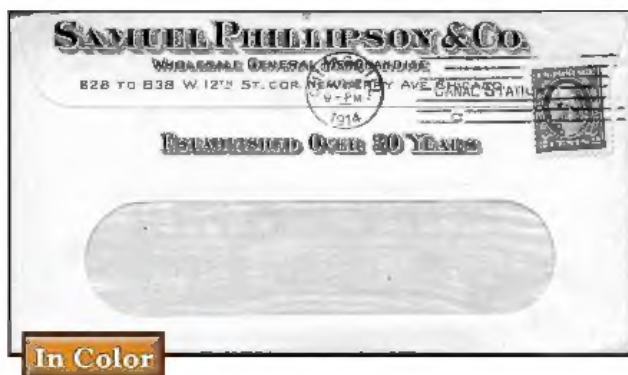
Although reported in the previous Bulletin as a strip, I was very happy to see this second cover. This cover of the O'Neil Oil and Paint Co. [O51; B] was a most appropriately colorful cover - a red stamp and list of products, white envelope and blue corner return address - very apropos for February 14, 1918 during Word War I! It is unfortunate that the Bulletin is not printed in color. (Members have asked about that and Floyd Walker and I looked into color printing several years ago, but it was just too expensive for our Club.)



The most colorful of all the covers was the following. It is a differently constructed cover as the normal obverse has a full multi- colored picture of the Samuel Phillipson & Co. Wholesale General Merchandise building located at the corner of W 12th and Newberry Ave. in Chicago, IL.



The normal reverse of the cover, with the gummed flap, also has an address window and the full black and white identification of the company and address, thus making the reverse the obverse and vice versa.



Here we have another new identification of both the user and the location for a pattern - S210 [B+]. Has anyone else out there seen any other covers with the obverse/reverse set up as this cover? I think it was a great idea and wonder why I have not seen other covers like this.

The last cover is interesting as it is a "preper" - one that the Post Office wanted to make sure they dutifully cancelled on October 2, 1933. Oh well, they do not always know their own rules and regulations.

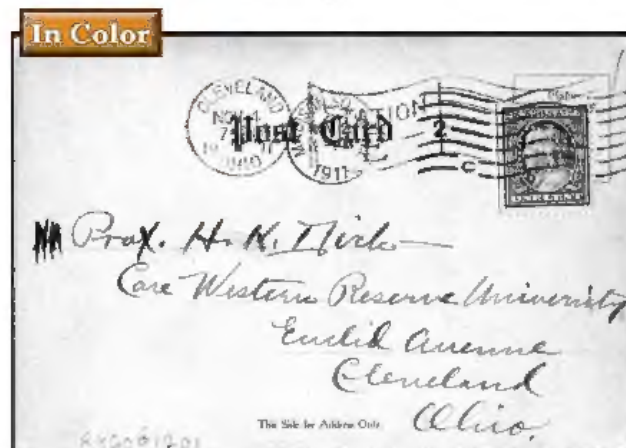


Their redundant canceling does allow us to ascertain that the cover was used on a certain date that does coincide with the usage period of the 3¢ Stuart pair shown. The most interesting part of the cover is the perfin. Although The American Appraisal Company A18 [E rated] perfin was in use from 1908 through 1940 as listed in the U S Perfin Catalog and the 1st Additions and Corrections to it, this pair was perfined with the A1861 [C rated - as a partial] that was the company's fiscal perforator. (CFR; U S Catalog page A-51 under Supplemental information) as so well explained by John Randall, editor. This pair is perfined "AMERICA" a large partial of the fiscal A1861 perfin!

As with the strips from the previous article, note that all of these covers are from neither the East Coast

nor West Coast but from mid-America!

The last shown item is a post card. Usually post cards are not very good for showing identifications but, alas, here is one that brought a smile to my heart! It is addressed to a Professor H. K. Dick / Case Western Reserve University. Now, being from Cleveland, OH originally, I knew both Case University and Western Reserve University and I also know that in probably the 1960's these two fine, neighboring Universities joined to become Case Western Reserve University!



It was difficult for me to believe that someone would have had a premonition 50 years earlier of this fact. That troubled me until I took out my magnifying glass to look closely at "Case". It had looked like "Case" to me. It could even be "Case" I told myself. But the glass told a different story.



The "Case" was not "Case" but "Care". Now, that does make a case that I care to believe solved my dilemma. The card was sent "in care of" Western Reserve University. I had always seen and used c/o as "care of" but maybe someone out there could

verify that this case is solved as "Care" alone was used in years past. Anyone care to let me know if this was the case?

Oh, I almost forgot! The other side of this postcard was a picture of a beautiful and then

modern (1911) Wright Bros. Airplane following a sign pointing the way to Café Martin/10 miles – "Broadway 26th St. 5th Ave./New York". As luck would have it, the perfin in the stamp is "CM" and is found in the U S Catalog as C191 [B] with a previously unknown user or location. Serendipity!
